

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2438

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - WEEKEND MEDIA

SUMMARY: RETURN OF PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS RECEIVED VERY SCANT COVERAGE AND NO COMMENT WHATEVER. SECRETARY VANCE'S COMMENTS ON CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION WERE PUBLISHED, BUT DREW RETORT FROM ONE GOP-GUIDED PAPER ON MONDAY THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WAS A U.S. PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST NOTABLE THING ABOUT LOCAL MEDIA OVER WEEKEND IS THAT RETURN OF PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM TO PANAMA RECEIVED ALMOST NO COVERAGE, AND DREW NO COMMENT WHATEVER. TEAM'S IMPENDING RETURN WAS REPORTED BY BOTH LOCAL TELEVISION CHANNELS ON 2200 NEWSCASTS FRIDAY, JUNE 17. BOTH WERE STRAIGHT NEWS ITEMS FROM UPI WIRE REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS RELEASE.

2. "STAR AND HERALD" FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 18, CARRIED A THREE-PARA AP ITEM ON THE DEPARTMENT RELEASE AS A FRONT-PAGE ITEM. BUT COMPANION SPANISH-LANGUAGE "ESTRELLA" DID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT CARRY IT, NOR DID GOP-GUIDED PAPERS FOR THAT MORNING. SUNDAY AND MONDAY PRESS CONTAIN NO MENTION OF THEIR RETURN, AND FBIS/PANAMA ADVISES THEY HAVE HEARD NO FURTHER MENTION OF ITEM, AND ABSOLUTELY NO COMMENT ON IT, ON BROADCAST MEDIA THROUGHOUT WEEKEND OR UP TO 1000 MONDAY, JUNE 20.

3. LEAD ITEMS IN SATURDAY'S "STAR AND HERALD" AND "ESTRELLA" WERE WIRE REPORTS BASED ON FRIDAY'S "NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE QUOTING SECRETARY VANCE ON PROBABLE CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO A NEW TREATY. JUNE 19 "DOMINICAL" EDITORIALIZED ON FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ REVILLA'S SPEECH TO OASGA, BUT SAID NOTHING NEW.

4. "CRITICA" LEAD EDITORIAL FOR MONDAY TOOK OFF ON SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENTS AND RETORTED THAT PANAMA'S RATIFICATION OF A TREATY BY PLEBISCITE WAS PANAMA'S PROBLEM, WHILE RATIFICATION IN THE UNITED STATES BY THE U.S. CONGRESS WAS THE UNITED STATES' PROBLEM--AND ALTHOUGH ENDORSING GONZALEZ REVILLA'S "CONTROL THE EMOTIONS" STANCE, REMARKED OMINOUSLY THAT PANAMA HAD OTHER MEANS AVAILABLE IF THE UNITED STATES FAILED TO HANDLE THAT PROBLEM.

5. "MATUTINO" FOR JUNE 20 ANALYZED U.S. OPPOSITION TO NEW TREATY AS COMING FROM TWO DISTINCT TYPES OF AMERICANS. FIRST TYPE, WITHIN U.S., WAS OPPOSED MOSTLY BECAUSE OF BAD INFORMATION--PAPER'S TONE TOWARD SUCH OPPONENTS WAS MORE IN SORROW THAN ANGER. SECOND TYPE WAS RECALCITRANT "ZONIAN" AMERICAN WHO POSSESSED FULL INFORMATION ON PANAMA SITUATION BUT NONETHELESS OPPOSED ANY CHALLENGE TO HIS "SACRED HEREDITARY RIGHTS" IN DEFIANCE OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.
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6. COMMENT: ABSENCE OF COMMENT ON PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR'S RETURN DEFINITELY INDICATES THAT PRESS HAS NOT BEEN TOLD HOW TO PLAY THE STORY. VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF COVERAGE MAY WELL INDICATE THAT IT HAS BEEN AFFIRMATIVELY TOLD NOT TO PLAY IT AT ALL, EVEN IN FORM OF NEUTRAL WIRE SERVICE ITEMS. SO FAR, THEIR RETURN HAS BEEN A MEDIA NON-EVENT.

GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PDEV, PN, US
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